

6513 '99 AUG 18 P1:56

Eileen Alanna Gertz
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August 16, 1999

Re: Docket Number 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to your request for comments on reducing egg borne diseases. I am referring to dockets numbered 98N-1230; 96P-0418 and 97P-0197.

The U S Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service states that forced molting practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se) by laying hens subjected to extended starvation and water deprivation. In light of this, I am writing to urge you to completely ban the practice of forced molting.

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting and I encourage you to do so immediately, since this practice is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and in those who consume the eggs. Scientific study shows that the practice of forced molting promotes disease by destroying the hen's immune system. In addition to causing disease, studies have also shown that this practice also causes suffering and death to millions of birds every year.

Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and monitoring egg refrigeration temperatures is not enough to stop the problems and deaths caused by the practice of forced molting.

Since the FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health, I urge you to ban forced molting in the US egg industry.

Sincerely,

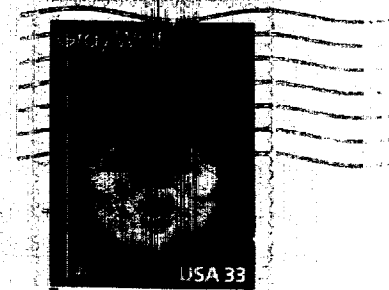
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96P-0418

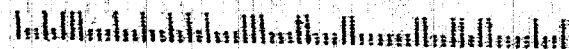
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20857-0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number

98N-1230/C288

See File Number:

97P-0197/C289

96P-0418/C288